

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Well, Senator Nelson, maybe quality, it would be easier to justify to the citizens of the State of Nebraska.

SENATOR NELSON: Thank you, Senator Morehead. I, too, as an outstate senator support this proposal. It is not only Omaha and Lincoln. We have a very, very fine Arts Council in Grand Island. A couple of years ago I was privileged to go to Ord, Nebraska, Burwell, Nebraska, and I'm just exactly like Senator Johnson, it is not an issue just of Omaha and Lincoln and we do need some arts outstate and we do appreciate the arts. So I think it's a good amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I, like Senator Scofield, rise reluctantly to oppose Senator Morehead and Senator Rod Johnson's amendment. I must confess that at the committee hearing on this particular item, the Nebraska Arts Council and the people that support the arts in the state made some very good arguments and, indeed, they garnered by sympathetic ear, but obviously, not sympathetic enough and there is a couple of reasons for that. You know, Senator Morehead has stated we need to do more in the arts and I guess I want to point out as Senator Scofield has already pointed out, we're doing some things for the arts. For those of you that don't know, the total General Fund arts budget, total General Fund arts budget right now is \$718,000. If you adopt the Morehead amendment, it's up to \$918,000. If you adopt the Morehead amendment, that would mean that the Arts Council's General Fund budget for the last five years will, the growth will be 90 percent in the last five years. Now I think in tough times we've treated the arts well. It is my hope that...it's one of those things that I'm sure we'll hear more of. There is always next year. Hopefully, maybe next year we can find some room for something like this, but the fact of the matter is in the last five years, as I have stated, that arts budget has grown 90 percent and I think something that should not be forgotten that 90 percent growth in the General Fund Arts Council budget has been accompanied by a sizeable expenditure by the state, a few million dollars in state funds, in my understanding, with the Lied Center for Performing Arts here in Lincoln. And so we have...we've not maybe done as totally a good a job as some of us would like for appropriating funds for the arts, but I don't think at this point in time Senator Morehead's amendment is something that I personally can support.